



## NEWS RELEASE

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## **La Puente Man Charged with Murder, Attempted Murder, Other Crimes**

A 33-year-old man pleaded not guilty today to committing multiple crimes, including fatally shooting a homeless man and trying to kill an ex-girlfriend, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Manuel Jerome Lujan (dob 1/27/82) of La Puente has been charged with six counts: murder, attempted murder, shooting at an inhabited dwelling, second-degree robbery, assault with a firearm and exhibiting a concealed firearm in public in case KA109623.

The felony complaint includes a special allegation that the defendant personally and intentionally discharged a firearm, which caused great bodily injury and death.

Additionally, the charging document alleges that Lujan was previously convicted of assault with a deadly weapon in 2001.

Prosecutors said on April 26, Lujan reportedly walked up to a man in a La Puente neighborhood, put a gun to his head and demanded the victim's cell phone.

The victim's friends approached the defendant and asked what was going on, prosecutors said. Lujan then allegedly pointed the gun at the group before ultimately leaving the area with the stolen cell phone.

Three days later, Lujan was reportedly seen driving in a West Covina neighborhood acting erratic and waving a gun, prosecutors added. At one point, people living in the community heard gunshots and called police.

When authorities arrived in the area, they discovered a building that had been shot at, as well as the body of victim Jabarri Butts, 36.

About an hour later, Lujan's ex-girlfriend called law enforcement and said the defendant threw rocks at her window and shot at her while she was in her home, prosecutors said.

The next day, authorities located Lujan and he was arrested in connection with the crimes.

Lujan is scheduled to return to court on July 9 for a pre-preliminary hearing in Department N of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Pomona Branch.

If convicted as charged, the defendant faces a maximum sentence of life in state prison.

The case is being investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and the West Covina Police Department.

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### **About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office**

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecuted more than 71,000 felony defendants and nearly 112,000 misdemeanor defendants.